The Ancestry and Immigration of Paul Thompson

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The discovery of the ancestry of Paul Thompson is a lesson in genealogical persistence and simple good fortune. The only clue I had for a long period of time was the Massachusetts marriage record for Paul and Emma which indicates his parents are "Lars and Chereti Jacobs."[1] The next clues came in 2010 in a letter from Charles Wickland, a grandson of Paul through his 5th daughter Alice Maria. He relayed an oral tradition that Paul's surname in Sweden was Truittson and sent me a baptismal record for the Thompson family from an unknown church in Muskegon, Michigan[2]. These clues were interesting, but not entirely helpful at the time. So, they sat dormant for a number of years.

In late 2014, I began to finally understand how to efficiently do genealogy research in Sweden. But, in order to research Paul Thompson, I needed to know the exact parish he was born in. With all of the information I had (obituaries, death certificates, etc.) this is one piece of information I could not locate. Then I revisited the baptism record. It had the place of baptism on it, but the copy was cut off and I could not read it. If only I knew what church it had come from, perhaps they still had the record. For a while, this was a bit of a mystery.

One day it dawned on me that Paul's obituary mentioned the church that he belonged to – Samuel Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Michigan[3]. Perhaps that was the church this baptism record came from, and sure enough it was. The church was still in existence, I contacted them, and they were kind enough to send me the entire baptism record. Mystery solved, right? Wrong. I could not discern the actual location from the notations. So again I was stumped for a while.

Finally, I turned to a Sweden genealogy message board on the internet. I posted the baptism record hoping someone would be able to infer the location for Paul Thompson. Some very kind people responded and not only identified the location but also pointed me to the first household census records for Paul Thompson and his family in Sweden. The brick wall had been broken down, completely! I knew I had discovered the right Paul because of the marriage record and the "Truittson" oral tradition – his father's name was Lars Troedsson which is phonetically very similar to Truittson.

And so I am now able to present for the first time the ancestry of Paul Thompson…

Paul Thompson was born Paulus Larsson on 04 Oct 1847 in Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden to Lars Troedsson and Kjersti Jakobsdotter[3, 4, 5]. He was christened on 01 Dec 1847[2, 4]. His father died when he was 6 years old. From what I can determine, he also lost two siblings during his childhood. I believe the family was probably very poor. While we have no definitive information on why Paul came to America, I believe it very well could have been the only source of hope in his life after a very rough childhood.

The final household census record for Paul in Sweden gives his exact date of departure for America: March 15, 1872[6]. The 1900 United States Census agrees with this date where Paul reports that he immigrated to the United States in 1872[7]. In all American records he is known as Paul Thompson. It is not known why he changed his surname from Larsson or Troedsson to Thompson or why he chose the name Thompson.

Paul is first seen in American genealogical records in a marriage license dated 10 Mar 1879 in Gloucester, Essex, Massachusetts, marriage records[8]. The marriage actually took place in Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, and Paul reports his age as 31 years old with his wife named as Emma C. M. Freeber, age 26[1, 8]. Paul is subsequently seen in the 1880 United States Census in Essex County, Massachusetts with wife "Christina" and daughter Edith, born in Massachusetts 15 days earlier[9].

Paul declared his intent to become a United States citizen on 05 May 1882 in Muskegon, Michigan, stating that he was a subject of the Kingdom of Sweden and Norway[10]. In the 1900 United States census, he is still in this status of "having filed first papers for naturalization."[7] Perhaps the census was a reminder to Paul that he had not finished the process of naturalization, for on 02 Nov 1900 in Muskegon he finally becomes a citizen of the United States[11, 12].

Paul lived most of his life in the United States working as a fisherman on the Great Lakes and living in Muskegon, Michigan, although he is seen working as a laborer in a machine shop (Enterprise Brass Works) in the 1920 United States census[13].

Details of Paul's ancestry are given on the following pages.

References:

[1] Massachusetts Archive of Marriage Records. 1879, Volume 307, Page 172.
[2] Baptism Register of Samuel Lutheran Church, Muskegon, Michigan. Page 13.
[3] The Muskegon Chronicle, Muskegon, Michigan. 21 Sep 1935, page 2. Obituary for Paul Thompson.
[4] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Födde (Birth Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1836-1861, Image 95.
[5] Death Records of Muskegon County, Michigan. Death certificate for Paul Thompson; Book 5, Page 512.
[6] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1867-1873 (AI:18), Faritslöv, Page 165.
[7] 1900 United States Census. Muskegon County, Michigan, Page 80 B.
[8] Marriage Records of Gloucester, Essex County, Massachusetts. Unknown volume, page 118, no. 30.
[9] 1880 United States Census. Essex County, Massachusetts, Page 490 B.
[10] Circuit Court Records of Muskegon County, Michigan. Declaration of Intention to become a Citizen of the United States for Paul Thompson.
[11] Circuit Court Records of Muskegon County, Michigan. Naturalization Record for Paul Thompson, Book C, page 32.
[12] Circuit Court Records of Muskegon County, Michigan. Naturalization Oath of Witness and Declaration of Allegiance for Paul Thompson.
[13] 1920 United States Census. Muskegon County, Michigan, Page 91 B.

Parents:

Name	Data	Date	Place
Lars Troedsson	Birth	29 Jul 1805	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	11 Apr 1854	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
Kjersti Jakobsdotter	Birth	28 Sep 1812	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Marriage	02 Mar 1838	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	08 Jun 1908	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden

References:

[1] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Födde (Birth Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1793-1854, Image 36.
[2] Ibid. Book 1793-1854, Image 84.
[3] Ibid. Book 1811-1825, Page 14.
[4] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Vigsel (Marriage Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1836-1854, Image 8.
[5] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Död (Death Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1836-1861, Image 87.
[6] Ibid. Book 1898-1920 (SCB), Image 67 (1908 #21)
[7] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1811-1816, Faritslöv, Page 61.
[8] Ibid. Book 1803-1806, Faritslöv (1805), Page 32 (Image 259).
[9] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1809), Page 33 (Image 172).
[10] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1811), Page 37 (Image 307).
[11] Ibid. Book 1811-1816, Faritslöv, Page 63.
[12] Ibid. Book 1825-1830, Faritslöv, Pages 128 and 130.
[13] Ibid. Book 1831-1835, Faritslöv, Pages 129 and 131.
[14] Ibid. Book 1836-1841, Faritslöv, Pages 61 and 63.
[15] Ibid. Book 1842-1851, Faritslöv, Pages 177-178.
[16] Ibid. Book 1851-1857, Faritslöv, Page 285.
[17] Ibid. Book 1857-1860, Faritslöv, Page 528.
[18] Ibid. Book 1860-1867 (AI:16), Faritslöv, Page 692.
[19] Ibid. Book 1867-1873 (AI:18), Faritslöv, Page 165.
[20] Ibid. Book 1874-1884 (AI:24), Faritslöv, Page 190.
[21] Ibid. Book 1884-1894 (AI:24), Faritslöv, Page 182.
[22] Ibid. Book 1895-1908 (AII:1), Page 186 (line 22).

Paternal grandparents:

Name	Data	Date	Place
Troed Bengtsson	Birth	03 Sep 1758	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	04 Feb 1841	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
Boel Hansdotter	Birth	21 Sep 1770	Engalag (Ångalag), Hov, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Marriage	27 Jan 1792	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	28 Apr 1832	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden

References:

[1] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Födde (Birth Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1738-1773, Page 65.
[2] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Vigsel (Marriage Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1775-1800, Page 186
[3] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Död (Death Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1836-1861, Image 27.
[4] Ibid. Book 1801-1836, Image 366.
[5] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Hov Parish. Book 1791-1796, Engalag (1791), Image 12.
[6] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1836-1841, Faritslöv, Page 61.
[7] Ibid. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1790), Image 45.
[8] Ibid. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1791), Image 136.
[9] Ibid. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1792), Image 219.
[10] Ibid. Book 1803-1806, Faritslöv (1805), Page 32 (Image 259).
[11] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1809), Page 33 (Image 172).
[12] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1811), Page 37 (Image 307).
[13] Ibid. Book 1811-1816, Faritslöv, Page 61.
[14] Ibid. Book 1825-1830, Faritslöv, Page 128.
[15] Ibid. Book 1831-1835, Faritslöv, Page 129.

Maternal grandparents:

Name	Data	Date	Place
Jakob Hansson	Birth	02 Apr 1786	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	18 Mar 1867	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
Pernilla Persdotter	Birth	24 May 1788	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Marriage	21 Aug 1811	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	27 Aug 1858	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden

References:

[1] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Födde (Birth Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1775-1792, Page 114.
[2] Ibid. Book 1775-1792, Page 126.
[3] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Vigsel (Marriage Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1811-1836, Page 3 (1811 #8).
[4] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Död (Death Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1867 (253), Page 2 (1867 #13).
[5] Ibid. Book 1836-1861, Image 112.
[6] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1791), Image 137.
[7] Ibid. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1791), Page 139.
[8] Ibid. Book 1803-1806, Faritslöv (1805), Page 33 (Image 260).
[9] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1809), Page 34 (Image 173)
[10] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1811), Page 37 (Image 307).
[11] Ibid. Book 1811-1816, Faritslöv, Page 63.
[12] Ibid. Book 1825-1830, Faritslöv, Page 130.
[13] Ibid. Book 1831-1835, Faritslöv, Page 131.
[14] Ibid. Book 1836-1841, Faritslöv, Page 63.
[15] Ibid. Book 1842-1851, Faritslöv, Page 178.
[16] Ibid. Book 1851-1857, Faritslöv, Page 285.
[17] Ibid. Book 1857-1860, Faritslöv, Page 528.
[18] Ibid. Book 1860-1867 (AI:16), Faritslöv, Page 693.

Paternal great-grandparents:

Name	Data	Date	Place
Bengt Andersson	Birth	1723	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	18 May 1790	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
Troen Troedsdotter	Birth	1725	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Marriage	20 Nov 1748	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	23 May 1769	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden

References:

[1] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Födde (Birth Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1689-1737, Page 76.

[2] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Vigsel (Marriage Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1738-1773, Page 161.

[3] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Död (Death Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1775-1794, Page 228.

[4] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1790), Image 45.

Name	Data	Date	Place
Hans Persson	Birth	1736	
	Death	1808	Engalag (Ångalag), Hov, Kristianstad, Sweden
Troen Tullesdotter	Birth	1737	
	Marriage		
	Death	1807	Engalag (Ångalag), Hov, Kristianstad, Sweden

References:

[1] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Hov Parish. Book 1791-1796, Engalag (1791), Image 12.

[2] Ibid. Book 1803-1814, Engalag (1807), Image 123.

[3] Ibid. Book 1803-1814, Engalag (1808), Image 155.

Maternal great-grandparents:

Name	Data	Date	Place
Hans Jacobsson	Birth	08 Sep 1751	
	Death	03 Jan 1825	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
Kirsti Erlandsdotter	Birth	1756 (?)	
	Marriage	13 Dec 1778	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	18 Feb 1811	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden

References:

[1] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Vigsel (Marriage Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1775-1800 Page 174.

[2] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Död (Death Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1811-1825, Page 154.

[3] Ibid. Book 1793-1854 (CI:4), Image 149.

[4] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1791), Image 136.

[5] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1811), Page 37 (Image 307).

[6] Ibid. Book 1811-1816, Faritslöv, Page 63.

[7] Ibid. Book 1825-1830, Faritslöv, Page 130.

Name	Data	Date	Place
Per Svensson	Birth	20 May 1750	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death		
Hanna Persdotter	Birth	10 Jun 1750	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Marriage	08 May 1778	Faritslöv, Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden
	Death	08 May 1832	Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Sweden

References:

[1] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Födde (Birth Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1738-1773, Page 43.

[2] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Vigsel (Marriage Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1775-1800 Page 174.

[3] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Död (Death Records), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1801-1836, Image 366.

[4] Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941, Husförhör (Household Examinations), Kristianstad County, Västra Karup Parish. Book 1790-1792, Faritslöv (1791), Page 138.

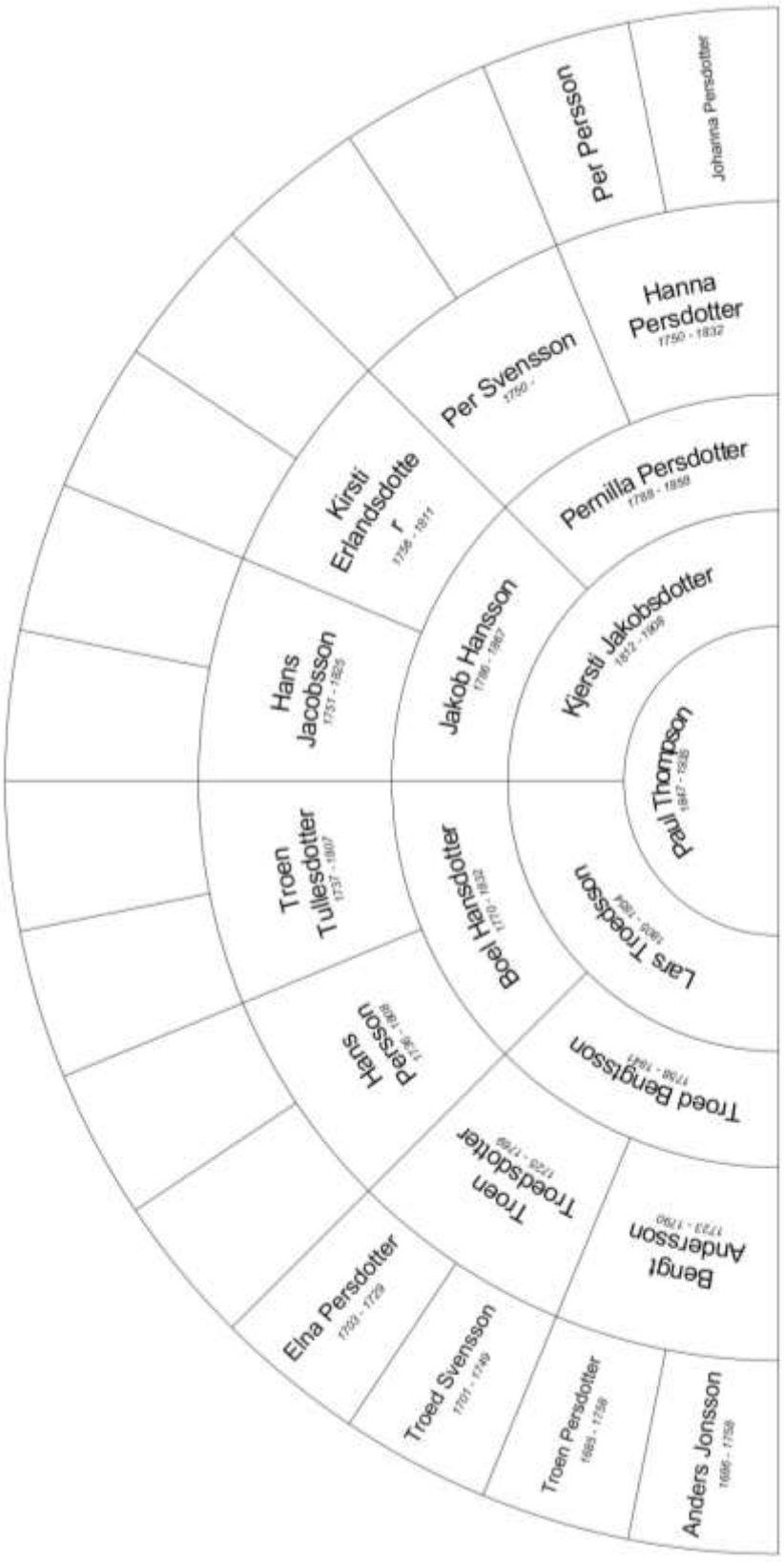
[5] Ibid. Book 1803-1806, Faritslöv (1805), Page 33 (Image 260).

[6] Ibid. Book 1807-1811, Faritslöv (1809), Page 34 (Image 173).

[7] Ibid. Book 1811-1816, Faritslöv, Page 65.

[8] Ibid. Book 1825-1830, Faritslöv, Page 133.

[9] Ibid. Book 1831-1835, Faritslöv, Page 133.



Ancestor fan chart for Paul Thompson (Paulus Larsson)